EPA starts construction of the Metaltec/Aerosystems Superfund Site groundwater remedy

Community Update **March 2008**

Ground water remedy

- EPA is beginning construction of the ground water treatment facility at the Metaltec/ Aerosystems Superfund Site.
- Construction is scheduled to begin in late February 2008 and is expected to be completed by late September 2008.
- Private wells that were impacted by site contaminants have been closed and residents were placed on Borough water as their drinking water source.
- No residents are being exposed to site related contaminants.

Construction of the ground water treatment plant at the Metaltec/Aerosystems Superfund Site is beginning in February 2008. The remedy, which was selected in a 1990 Record of Decision by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), consists of extracting the contaminated ground water and treating it by air stripping and carbon adsorption to remove the volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and other organic contaminants. The treated groundwater will be discharged into a tributary of Wildcat Brook.

EPA completed an extensive pre-design investigation which had been complicated by the complex geology of the site. Additionally, an endangered species of turtle, the bog turtle, was found at the site. EPA and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service developed a plan to ensure that site activity would not impact the turtles.

Where is the Metaltec site located?

The Metaltec site is located on a 15 1/2-acre property at the intersection of Wildcat and Maple Roads in a rural residential area of the Borough of Franklin in Sussex County, New Jersey. The site lies in a valley drained by a small unnamed stream that flows into Wildcat Brook, a tributary of the Wallkill River. Franklin Pond is located about ¾ miles northeast of the site. The now-closed Franklin Water Supply Well, which served as a secondary water supply source, is about 400 feet east of the property. Approximately 4,000 people live within three miles of the site.

What contaminants are at the Metaltec site?

Metaltec Corporation, operated a plant on the property which manufactured metal ballpoint casings, paint spray guns, lipstick cases and a variety of other metal products from 1965 to mid-1980. As part of the manufacturing process, the VOC trichloroethylene (TCE) was used as a

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EPA encourages public participation. If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact:

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guns, lipstick cases and a variety of other metal products from 1965 to mid-1980. As part of the manufacturing process, the VOC trichloroethylene (TCE) was used as a degreaser for metal parts.

In 1980, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) sampled the facility's wastewater lagoon and surrounding soil as part of a site inspection. Results revealed the presence of VOCs and heavy metals in soils and groundwater. The contaminants had leached from the lagoon into surrounding ground water, and upon sampling residential wells, the state found VOCs in the drinking water at levels above federal standards for drinking water. The Franklin Water Supply Well and contaminated private wells were closed in 1980, and affected residents were connected to the Borough's water supply. Currently, no residents are being exposed to contaminated ground water from the superfund site.

What cleanup has been done at the Metaltec site?

In 1986, EPA selected a remedy for cleaning up the sources of contamination at the site. The remedy consisted of excavating and treating about 14,000 cubic yards of soils contaminated with VOCs and disposing of them off site at an EPA-approved landfill; and providing an alternate water supply for Franklin to replace lost drinking water capacity. In addition further studies were needed to identify the extent of groundwater contamination and to evaluate the best options for cleanup.

In 1988, EPA excavated 5,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil from the site, transported them to an approved landfill and backfilled the excavated areas with clean fill. An alternate water supply pipeline to provide water from two privately developed wells was completed pipeline to provide water from two privately developed wells was completed in 1991. Cleanup of the remaining 10,000 cubic yards of contaminated soils, which was initiated in 1993, has also been completed.